

ETERNAL SECURITY

How do I know I am saved?

Gary D. Watson
Philippi Freedom Ministry

If you, or a loved one, are incarcerated and would like to study the Word of God, please contact:

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Philippi Freedom Ministry presents the gospel message of Faith Alone in Christ Alone and teaches basic Bible doctrines to those who are incarcerated. The purpose of this ministry is to make doctrinal Bible teaching available to inmates and their families without charge or obligation.

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**To the praise of the glory of His grace,
which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
Ephesians 1:6**

This book is edited from Bible classes taught by Gary D. Watson.

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Philippi Freedom Ministry

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Preface

It is not possible for you to sit here, in the flesh, and comprehend the Word of God in the way that God intended for you to receive it. He planned for you to receive it through the ministry of His Holy Spirit, whose job is to help you metabolize this information and convert it into wisdom for your soul that you can use. This cannot happen if you are seated here, as a Christian, with *known* sins in your life. The Bible warns us: “Do not quench the [Holy] Spirit” (1 Thessalonians 5:19) and mandates us: “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 4:30a). But that is what sin does. Therefore, you should always take a few moments of silent prayer before the study of the Word of God, to take the opportunity for self analysis to examine yourself and to see if there is any sin in your life. If there is, you need to make the application of Problem-Solving Device number one: **Rebound**.¹

¹ There are ten problem-solving devices. A brief discussion

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse [purify] us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Let us take advantage of this grace asset that we have. Let us have a time of silent prayer. Let us prepare ourselves to study together. Let us ask God the Holy Spirit to enlighten us with what we examine in this book.

We are indeed grateful, Father, for this grace opportunity to study Your Word. As we seek to learn your Word, may Your Holy Spirit have the freedom to challenge us, to enlighten us, to convict us, and to help us see that we really are in Christ, because it is in His name that we pray.

Amen.

of each problem-solving device is found in Appendix A.

Introduction

Whether you have recently believed in Jesus Christ as your Savior, or you have been a Christian for many years, from time to time, you may have questioned whether you are really saved and have eternal life (such as after you have sinned). Occasionally, you may even wonder if you have lost your salvation. More than once, you may have said, or heard others say, “But I don’t feel saved,” or “How do I know I’m saved?” Some Christians, driven by doubt and fear, may even get involved in various ritualistic and psychological activities to confirm that they are saved. Some of these pointless activities are rededicating themselves, frequently being baptized, or repeatedly professing faith in Christ, particularly when there is sin involved.

The purpose of this book is to provide you, as a believer in Jesus Christ, with Biblical truth regarding your eternal security. The Bible reflects absolute truth, and it is the mind of Christ (1

Corinthians 2:16). As we learn the Word of God, we grow spiritually and learn to respect, trust, and love our Lord. When we trust in Him, we have confidence that once we believe in Jesus Christ, we have eternal life, and we can never lose our salvation.

The central figure throughout the Old and New Testaments is Our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. The first promise of salvation for mankind is stated in Genesis 3:15. It says, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” From the very beginning, a Savior was identified for fallen man. Throughout the Old Testament, the Scriptures looked forward to the coming of the Messiah. And in the fullness of time (around 4 B. C.), God the Father faithfully provided his Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is undiminished deity and true humanity in one person. He is both true humanity (Romans 1:3), as well as the “exact image of the invisible God” (Colossians 1:15). Only a perfect sacrifice for our sins would satisfy our perfect

God. The humanity of Christ was uniquely born without a sin nature. He remained perfect (without sin) throughout His life, and as He was judged for our sins on the cross. “For once and for all Christ died for sins, the Righteous One as a substitute for the unrighteous ones, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh (substitutionary spiritual death)” (1 Peter 3:18a).²

In the New Testament, and during the Church Age,³ Scripture looks back at the cross. Regardless of human failure and satanic plots, God has faithfully kept His promise of salvation for all mankind. The Old Testament prophecies regarding salvation have been fulfilled; Jesus Christ accomplished His mission. The problem of physical death has been resolved. The issue of salvation is settled for all time. Consequently, as a believer in Jesus Christ, you can be confident you will live with God in Heaven forever.

² Watson, Gary. *Grace Throughout Life*. Philippi Freedom Ministry, 2023, p. 11.

³ The Church Age is the age in which we are currently living. It began on the day of Pentecost (A. D. 30) and will end with the Rapture.

Whether we look at the Old Testament or New Testament Scripture, there are no writings, when rightly interpreted, that teach salvation can be lost. Nor is there an example of anyone losing their salvation. “Of all the incidents and parables, none can be made to teach the loss of salvation. Moreover, if it were possible to lose it, there is no promise, or hint in the Bible that it could be regained. The Bible reveals nothing concerning repetition of regeneration.”⁴

The “Doctrine of Eternal Security” explains why there is no reason to worry about where you are going after you die if you are a believer in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. God does not want you to worry. Worry is a sin, and it hinders our spiritual growth. God wants you to consistently grow in His Word, so you can have confidence, peace, and happiness in any circumstance. “In order that you may fully realize the hope of His calling, and that your eyes of the right lobe⁵ of your soul may be

4 Chafer, Lewis Sperry. *God's Marvelous Work of Grace - Salvation*. Sunday School Times Company, 1922, pp. 97-98.

5 Greek translation is “heart.” It is a reference to the dominant, thinking portion of the soul’s mentality. Definition is an excerpt from Thieme’s Bible Doctrine Dictionary, R. B.

enlightened, that you may truly understand the riches of the glory of His inheritance for you being in Christ from the very moment you believed in Jesus Christ as Savior” (Ephesians 1:18).

Definitions and Descriptions

Before we begin our study, it is important to understand, and distinguish, between several terms associated with eternity.

Eternal security is the absolute assurance that once a person believes in Jesus Christ as Savior, his salvation can never be lost. Eternal security means that once a person believes in Jesus Christ, he has an unbreakable relationship with God. This relationship cannot be abrogated, destroyed, or revoked by man, angels, sins, failures, or even by God Himself. Eternal security does not depend on human attributes but strictly on the divine attributes of God (Ephesians 2:8–9). Later in this book, we will examine several of God’s attributes which make our eternal security possible.

Eternal life is the timeless life that exists in God. There was never a time that God did not exist, and His life continues without termination. Eternal life

is imputed to all who believe in Jesus Christ at the moment of salvation (1 John 5:11–12).

Everlasting life has a beginning but no end. For all mankind, the endless existence of the human soul begins at physical birth (God breathes the “breath of life,” or soul life, into all humans immediately at birth) and continues throughout eternity, either in Heaven or the Lake of Fire. Everlasting life is distinguished from eternal life, meaning the life of God, which has neither a beginning nor an end. The unbeliever has everlasting life in the Lake of Fire. The believer has everlasting life in Heaven because, at the moment of salvation, he receives the imputation of God’s own eternal life.

Physical death is the separation of the immortal, immaterial soul from the mortal, material body (Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 3:2a). God decides the time, manner, and place of physical death; therefore, nothing can remove the believer from this life apart from the wisdom, grace, and sovereignty of God.

Spiritual death describes man’s total separation from God (Romans 6:23a; Ephesians 2:1). Adam’s original sin brought spiritual death to all mankind

(Romans 5:12). Every human being, with the exception of Jesus Christ, is born physically alive but spiritually dead. This means there is no human spirit or ability to have a relationship with God, or understand His truths. The only solution to man's spiritual death is to believe in Jesus Christ for salvation (John 3:6–7; Romans 6:23).

Salvation is the act of God that delivers a person from eternal condemnation and into eternal life. Every human being needs to be saved because everyone enters the world in a state of spiritual death, total depravity, and total separation from God. Because man is born hopelessly lost from God and helpless to do anything about it, God, in His grace, designed a perfect plan to reconcile man to Himself. God the Son took the burden, became true humanity, and remained sinless so He could be judged for the sins of the world (1 Peter 3:18). While Jesus Christ hung on the cross, God the Father poured the full wrath of His justice upon the Son He loved so perfectly (Matthew 27:46; Romans 5:8–10; 2 Corinthians 5:21). Christ bore our sins in His body (1 Peter 2:24) and took the punishment in our place. When the last sin had been judged, Jesus

said, “It is finished” (John 19:30). Salvation was complete. When the gospel message of Christ’s saving work is communicated, the hearer simply responds by accepting the message as true. This is classified as faith alone in Christ alone. So, the issue in salvation is whether a person will believe in Jesus Christ as his personal Savior (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5).

An ***Interim Body*** is a temporary home of the human soul between physical death and resurrection. The *believer’s soul and spirit* leave the earthly body, the body of corruption, and are united in an interim body “face to face with the Lord” in Heaven (2 Corinthians 5:8), where they await the resurrection. After physical death, the *unbeliever’s soul* resides temporarily in Torments, a compartment of Hades (Luke 16:23). His or her interim body feels agony and suffering. At the end of human history, he or she is resurrected to stand before Jesus Christ at the Last Judgment (Revelation 20:13).

The ***Resurrection Body*** is the immortal, glorified body given to *believers* for existence in the eternal state. The believer’s new body will be like that of

the resurrected Christ: eternal, imperishable, free from sin and evil, never again subject to limitations of the mortal body (1 Corinthians 15:42–44; 53–54; Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:2). Church Age believers will receive their resurrection bodies at the Rapture.⁶ Believers who died during the dispensations of the Gentiles, Israel, Hypostatic Union,⁷ and future Tribulation⁸ will receive resurrection bodies at the end of the Tribulation. Finally, millennial believers will receive their resurrection bodies at the end of the Millenium,⁹ just before the eternal state begins. *The unbeliever*, having rejected Christ as Savior, will be condemned to eternity in the Lake of Fire (John 3:18; Revelation 20:14–15). Unbelievers will

6 The Rapture concludes the Church Age and begins the Tribulation. All Church Age believers, dead and living, will receive their resurrection bodies. It will happen in “the twinkling of an eye.” (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

7 The Hypostatic Union is a theological term to describe Jesus Christ as undiminished deity and true humanity in one person.

8 The Tribulation is a continuation of the dispensation of Israel. It begins at the Rapture of the Church and ends seven years later with the Second Advent of Jesus Christ.

9 The future thousand-year period beginning with the establishment of Christ’s earthly reign and terminating with the Last Judgment and destruction of the present universe. (Psalms 72; Isaiah 11, 35, 62, 65; Zechariah 14:9-11; Revelation 20)

receive a resurrection body that will house a soul that is conscious of eternal separation from God. Their final bodies are not specifically described in Scripture; however, they will experience excruciating pain forever. They will be cast into the Lake of Fire at the end of the Millennium, and they will live in flames and never be consumed.¹⁰

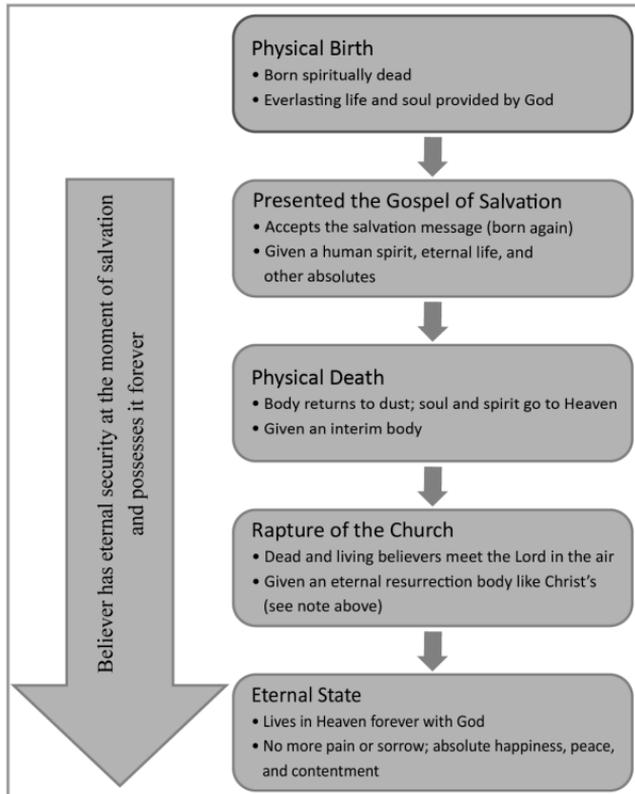
The following illustrations depict the different pathways of the believer and the unbeliever, from birth to the eternal state.

Note: Jesus Christ was the first to receive a resurrection body. At the present time, He is the only one with a resurrection body (Luke 24:6–7; 1 Timothy 6:16; 1 Peter 1:3). Church Age believers (that is who we are) are next to receive their resurrection body at the Rapture. Believers who died during the time of the Gentiles, Age of Israel, Hypostatic Union, and the future Tribulation will receive resurrection bodies at the end of the Tribulation. Millennial believers will receive their

¹⁰ All definitions in Chapter 1 are excerpts from Thieme's Bible Doctrine Dictionary, R. B. Thieme, Jr. Some wording may be modified but the original meaning of the content remains the same.

resurrection bodies at the end of the Millennium, just prior to the beginning of the eternal state.

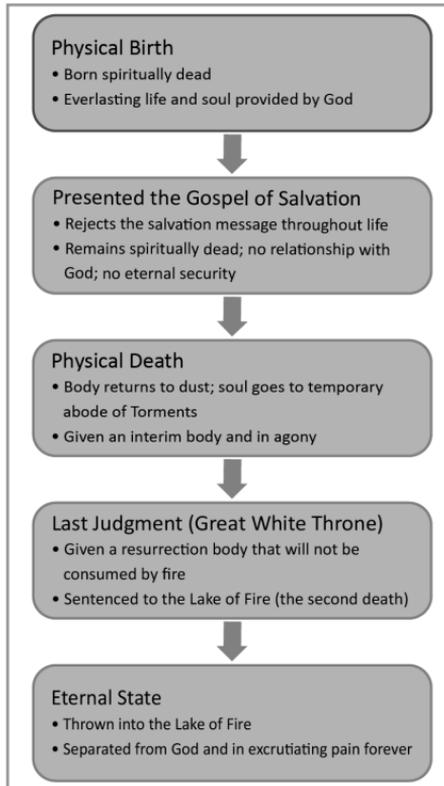
Pathway to Eternity for the Church Age Believer



“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not, shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:36).

“And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life” (1 John 5:11–12).

Pathway to Eternity for the Unbeliever



You are either going to be born twice or die twice.¹¹
You can either believe in Christ for eternal life or reject Him for eternal condemnation – the choice is yours.¹²

Your most important decision in life is to accept or reject Jesus Christ as your Savior.

If you are an unbeliever and have not accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you are spiritually dead, without hope and without eternal life. Consequently, you are without eternal security. This is the perfect time to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior because life “hangs by a thread.” Anyone can die anytime. A moment of faith will save you from eternal condemnation. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ before it is too late.

Questions frequently arise regarding the salvation of those who die at an early age, do not have the mental capability to understand the salvation message, commit suicide, or have never heard the gospel of salvation. God is perfectly fair, and

¹¹ Hughes, Rick. *Bible Promises and Principles*. Rick Hughes Evangelistic Ministries, p. 51.

¹² Ibid.

His omniscience understands the circumstances perfectly.

- Those that die as babies, or very young, before they recognize there is a Supreme Being (the age of accountability, or God-consciousness) and those that are mentally deficient, who cannot understand the gospel are, by the grace of God, automatically saved, and they will be in Heaven forever.
- Suicide is the choice of taking one's own life. It is superimposing human volition over the will and decision of God. It is also a failure to execute His plan of grace. While suicide expresses self-absorption and spiritual failure, no sin or failure can nullify Christ's saving work or cancel what the believer receives when he believes in Christ for salvation.¹³ Consequently, by the grace of almighty God, a believer who has committed suicide is in Heaven.
- It is not God's desire that anyone go to the Lake of Fire. Christ died for all. However,

¹³ Thieme, R. B. Jr. *Thieme's Bible Doctrine Dictionary*. R. B. Thieme, Jr. Bible Ministries, 2022, p. 261.

God does not tamper with human volition. By the sovereignty of God, all have free will, and His omniscience knows who wants to receive gospel information. Therefore, no matter how isolated a person is, if they want a relationship with God, He will provide the information. Consequently, all who deny the gospel and die as unbelievers are condemned and will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire.

The Basis of Salvation is the Basis of Eternal Security

We are not saved based on who and what we are. We are saved based on who and what God is. It is important, therefore, to examine some of the attributes of God's essence¹⁴ that are the foundation of your salvation and eternal security.

The attributes of God, that are in the forefront for your salvation and your eternal security, are the same. They are as follows:

- His Love: The motivation for His plan for salvation of mankind
- His Righteousness: The principle for His plan for salvation of mankind

¹⁴ The attributes of God are Sovereignty, Righteousness, Justice, Love, Eternal Life, Omniscience, Omnipotence, Omnipresence, Immutability, and Veracity. For a brief summary of the attributes of God, see *Grace Throughout Life*, Gary D. Watson, pages 3–7. For a more detailed study, see *The Trinity*, R. B. Thieme, Jr.

- His Justice: The function for His plan for salvation of mankind¹⁵

When the impeccable, unblemished Lamb of God went to the cross to die for all the past, present, and future sins of the world, these three divine attributes were involved. When we see God's perfect divine love, righteousness, and justice function on our behalf, we understand that we have a God that always acts in our best interest. A brief explanation of each of these attributes is necessary to understand the depth of God's character. As finite human beings, we cannot fully comprehend what perfect love, righteousness, and justice are, but we know that we are always "in His hands," and we will be with Him in Heaven forever.

The Love of God

Humans love and fall in love, but God is love (1 John 4:8, 16). Love is one of God's eternal attributes and, as a part of God's essence, His love is eternal, absolute, and infinite. Each Member of the Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, and God

¹⁵ The combination of God's righteousness and justice is called the Integrity, or Holiness, of God.

the Holy Spirit) possesses this love. Unlike human love, God's love does not change; it is immutable, so it does not increase or decrease toward us, even when we fail or sin.

To help us understand God's love, we can place His love into three categories. All three Persons of the Trinity possess:

- God's love for His own righteousness (wherever it is found)
- God's impersonal love (based on His integrity) toward spiritually dead man
- God's personal love toward the believer in Jesus Christ

God's impersonal and personal love are both involved in our eternal security. First, His impersonal love motivated Him to provide to all of us who start life spiritually dead, a Savior and a plan for our salvation. Second, His personal love for the believer motivated Him to provide us with

forty absolutes¹⁶ at the moment of salvation, several of which guarantee our eternal security.

Personal Love of God

Each Member of the Trinity loves the other Members of the Trinity with an infinite, eternal, and perfect love. There never was a time they did not have this love for one another. The personal love of Jesus Christ for God the Father always existed, even when Christ was in hypostatic union. The personal love of Christ, while in hypostatic union, for God the Father was the motivation for Christ to be obedient to the Father's will related to the Father's plan for salvation.

God also has personal love for believers, those who express faith alone in Christ alone. However, He does not love us because we are successful, have a great personality, or any other human trait. He loves us because we possess the imputed righteousness of God received at the moment of salvation.

16 For more information on the forty grace gifts given to us at salvation, see *The Plan of God; Appendix, Thirty-nine Irrevocable Absolutes, and One Revocable Absolute*. Compiled by Lewis Sperry Chafer; revised by R. B. Thieme, Jr., pages 29–33.

Impersonal Love of God

Each Member of the Trinity has impersonal love for spiritually dead man. Impersonal love is based on Who and What God is, not any attractiveness or merit of the object of that love. As spiritually dead, totally depraved creatures, we have nothing to offer any Member of the Trinity. God's virtue love toward us (impersonal love based on His integrity) was His motivation to provide a plan for salvation, which included God the Son coming to earth to tabernacle among us, and to receive the imputation and judgment of the sins of the world. "God so loved the world that He sent His uniquely born (corrected translation) Son that whosoever believed in Him should never perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Christ's Love for Man

In His humanity, Jesus Christ had personal love for the Father, impersonal love (also known as virtue love) for all mankind, and personal love for those He fellowshiped with during the first incarnation. There are many passages throughout the Gospels which describe His love.¹⁷

¹⁷ Personal Love for the Father (John 17:24b). Impersonal

Remember, it was in His humanity that Jesus Christ received the imputation and judgment of the sins of the world; He received the imputation and judgment of sins of people that, in His humanity, He didn't know, even the sins of people who hated Him and ridiculed Him while He was receiving the judgment of their sins. "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

Jesus Christ made a decision to go to the cross knowing what was going to occur. He even prayed to the Father asking if there was any way the "cup" He was to drink could be taken away [the cup of the judgment of sins of all human history (Luke 22:42)]. He fully appreciated not just the physical agony of the cross, but the humiliation, revulsion, and repugnance of Him who knew no sin being made sin as a substitute for us. Although the physical suffering of Roman capital punishment of the cross meant excruciating physical pain, it was nothing compared to the spiritual death and separation from God the Father while Jesus Christ

love for mankind (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9; Romans 5:8). Personal love for the disciples and believers (John 13:34; 15:12; Ephesians 5:25).

received the imputation and judgment of the sins of the world. “MY GOD MY GOD WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?” (Matthew 27:46). We cannot imagine what the cost of our salvation was, not only to the Son of God, but also to God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

Despite the full realization of what He was facing, Christ voluntarily went to the cross. Remember, He did it for you. Yes, it is true that Jesus Christ came into the world to be judged for the sins of all humanity throughout history. You may wonder, “Who am I compared to all of humanity? I am just one anonymous person among the billions of men and women who have lived on planet earth for several thousand years.” But do not let the depth of this universal, all-encompassing sacrifice obscure the very personal aspect of that sacrifice...that Jesus Christ came into the world to save **you**. In short, Jesus Christ had you personally in mind as He hung on the cross when He received the imputation and judgment of your sins. As a result of His initiative, you can have a personal and eternal relationship with Him, simply by accepting His sacrificial work

on the cross. Eternal life is that easy because Jesus Christ did all the work.

The Integrity of God
(His Love combined with
His Righteousness and Justice)

God's love was the motivation for your so-great salvation. But God's love was not sufficient to save mankind. It is impossible for God to act in a way that is inconsistent with His divine essence. If God acted inconsistently, God would not be God.

God is holy, an archaic word that is better understood today as integrity. As time moves on, the meaning of words change. For instance, holiness did not include love many years ago; it only consisted of God's righteousness and justice. Today, the word "integrity" is not only a better description than "holiness" for God's righteousness and justice, but it also includes His love.

In hypostatic union, Jesus Christ was undiminished deity and true humanity. From the moment of His virgin birth, His humanity had perfect righteousness. He was born as Adam was created, without sin and without an old sin nature. Only a perfect sacrifice

(a Lamb without spot or blemish) could serve as an acceptable sacrifice to God for the sins of the world, so God provided that perfect sacrifice—His uniquely born Son. Since Adam’s original sin and the sin nature are genetically passed through the man (and we are born spiritually dead at birth), God had to provide a way for His Son to come into the world perfect and without a sin nature; it was through the virgin birth. The humanity of Christ would maintain sinless perfection while in hypostatic union for thirty-three years. He would go to the cross sinless as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world and fulfill the plan of God for salvation by receiving the imputation and judgment of the sins of the world.

The righteousness, justice, and love of God were all in synch at the cross. The justice of God took precedence, and although God the Father loved the Son infinitely, His righteousness demanded that His justice judge Christ for our sins. Jesus Christ accomplished His mission at the cross. To both angels and mankind, the love of God was on full display because He first died spiritually and then physically for all mankind, past, present, and future.

This was truly the greatest sacrifice and act of love in all human history.

A wonderful and unassailable truth is that the believer can never lose his salvation. Once you are in His “family,” you are there forever. Again, this is because of Who and What He is. The same three attributes previously discussed (God’s love, God’s righteousness, and God’s justice), which were involved in salvation, also provide the believer with the foundation for eternal security. “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one shall snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one” (John 10:27–30).

We have no idea what our salvation cost the Trinity. However, we do know that the cross fulfilled a promise (Genesis 3:15) made by our Creator right after the fall of Adam and the Woman. That, in itself, should give you confidence that regardless of the adversities or human failures, God’s plan will be accomplished. That plan includes the promise of eternal life for you.

In addition to understanding and appreciating the integrity of God, there are valid, sensible reasons for us to conclude, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that a believer cannot lose his salvation or jeopardize his eternal security. In order that we may have certainty in His gift of eternal life to us, God has graciously presented us with conclusive rationales that, upon the believer's death, he will be absent from the body and face-to-face with the Lord in a place of no more sorrow, no more tears, no more pain, nor more death, for the old things have passed away.

Doctrinal Rationales for Eternal Security

The New Oxford American Dictionary defines “rationale” as a set of reasons or a logical basis for a course of action or a particular belief. For our purposes, the following rationales attest to the certainty of the believer’s eternal security.¹⁸

The Eternal Life of God Rationale

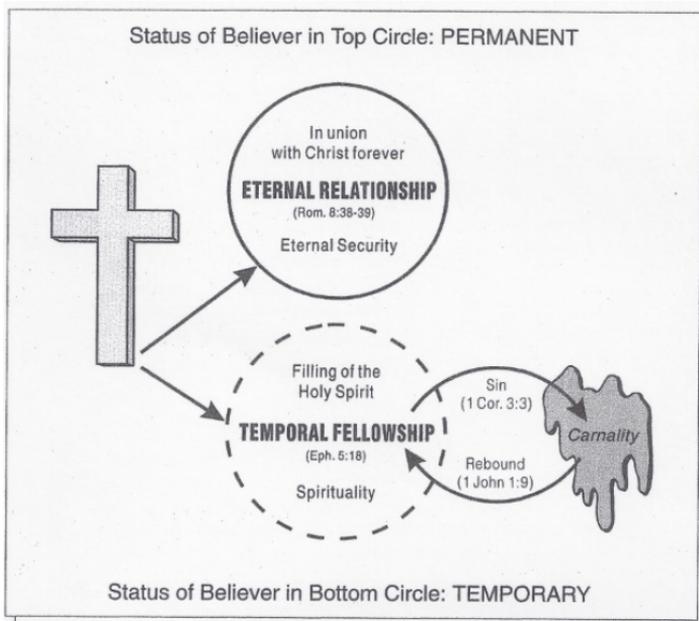
At the moment of salvation, God did forty things for you, five of which were accomplished by the Ministry of God the Holy Spirit. One of the five things God the Holy Spirit did for you was to pick you up and place you in eternal union with Jesus Christ (Current Positional Truth). You are in Christ. You belong to Christ, and by virtue of being

¹⁸ Each of the eternal security rationales were taught in a presentation of the Doctrine of Eternal Security during a Bible class conducted by Pastor R. B. Thieme III at Berachah Church, Houston, Texas on March 13, 2024. This book provides additional detail regarding each of those eternal security rationales.

in Him, you are also in the Father (John 17:9–10, 17:21–23).

The believer’s position in Christ is illustrated by the following “Top Circle/Bottom Circle diagram.” Our new position guarantees us an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ.¹⁹

Top and Bottom Circles



19 The Barrier, R. B. Thieme, Jr.; credit for the diagram also. For more information on this subject refer to “Rebound and Keep Moving” by R. B. Thieme, Jr.

The top circle represents our new position in union with Christ. This relationship depends solely on the integrity and work of God. The bottom circle represents the believer's fellowship with God in time under the control of the filling of the Holy Spirit. When the believer sins, he loses temporal fellowship and is out of the bottom circle. By privately naming the sins to God the Father (1 John 1:9), the believer "rebounds" back to the bottom circle. ***Regardless of the sin committed, the believer can never lose his position in Christ.***

As a believer in Jesus Christ, you were placed in the top circle from the very moment you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior. You possessed eternal life the very moment you expressed faith in Jesus Christ. There is nothing that you or anyone else can do to take you out of that top circle. This principle of your salvation and eternal security was testified to by Jesus Christ. "I give unto them eternal life, they shall never perish neither shall anyone snatch them from out of my hand" (John 10:28).

The Saved by God’s Grace Rationale

Every word and letter in the original languages of Scripture is vitally important to us. We are mandated to accurately interpret the Word of God under the “ICE” principle (2 Timothy 2:15).²⁰ In Greek language, when one verb was insufficient to express the complete action of an idea, the author would communicate using two verbs. The Greek author did this by using a grammatical construction called the periphrasis. Periphrasis is one of the most forceful ways for an author to express himself in any language. In the Greek, it has no loopholes, lapses, or exceptions of any kind. It expresses something in the strongest way—so strongly, that it takes two verbs, not just a single verb, to complete the idea that is expressed.

20 “ICE” is an acronym for a threefold Biblical method of interpretation (Isagogics, Categories, and Exegesis) that allows those with the gift of pastor-teacher to accurately study and teach the Word of God. Isagogics: interpretation of the text within its historical context or prophetic settings; Categories: classification of Biblical doctrines according to its subject matter; Exegesis: the grammatical, etymological, syntactical, and contextual analysis of Scripture from the original languages. Definition from an excerpt of Thieme’s Bible Doctrine Dictionary, R. B. Thieme, Jr., page 133. (R. B. Thieme, Jr. Bible Ministries, Houston, Texas).

This grammatical construction was used by Paul and other writers of Scripture. One such example is in Ephesians 2:8–9. The verses are commonly translated, “For by grace have you been saved through faith and that (salvation through faith) is not of yourselves, it is a gift of God (in other words, by grace), not of works lest any man should boast.” However, this translation does not reflect the periphrastic that is part of the verse in the original language.

In this verse, we have two verbs (periphrastic) that are utilized to describe your salvation at the moment you have faith in Christ: they are ***EIMI*** and ***SOZO***.

i) Present active indicative of the Greek verb ***EIMI***: “to be,” and

ii) Perfect passive participle from the Greek verb ***SOZO***: “saved.”

Combined, these two verbs mean, “to be saved.” There is much more in this verse than just the periphrastic construction (use of two verbs

together). We must further analyze the morphology (word structure)²¹ of the verbs.

EIMI: (Greek verb “to be”)

- **TENSE**: This is a nomic present. The nomic present expresses a universal truth, an absolute truth, a state or condition that perpetually exists and which will never be changed. The time element is remote because the doctrine of eternal security is true all the time and forever. It could be called the static present because eternal security is a condition that perpetually exists. You never lose your salvation for even a second. Once you believe in Jesus Christ as your Savior, your salvation perpetually exists.
- **VOICE**: The active voice; the believer in Jesus Christ produces the action by never losing his salvation.
- **MOOD**: The indicative mood is a dogmatic statement of absolute Truth, which is the Word of God.

²¹ Morphology is the study of the forms of words. (The New Oxford American Dictionary).

SOZO: (Greek verb “to be saved”)

- **TENSE:** The perfect tense is an intensive perfect, which was used by the Greeks to place special emphasis on the results of the action of the verb, emphasizing a present state from a past action. The completed action was faith in Jesus Christ. It denotes total completion of the action at the moment of non-meritorious faith in Jesus Christ with the emphasis on existing results, which is salvation and eternal life. In other words, once saved, always saved.
- **VOICE:** In the passive voice, the believer in Jesus Christ receives the action of the verb at the moment of salvation. The believer is the one being saved.
- **PARTICIPLE:** This is circumstantial and is best translated in English by the conjunction “and,” the finite form of the verb.

The perfect periphrastic denotes a completed action with eternal results. In this periphrastic, the finite verb adds duration with the continuous and eternal result of faith in Jesus Christ.

When we consider the Greek grammatical construction, Ephesians 2:8–9 is properly translated as follows:

“For by grace you have been saved in the past with the result that you keep on being saved forever through faith, and this salvation (which has been given to you and is forever) is not from yourselves, it is a gift from God, not from works lest anyone should boast.”

You can see the Apostle Paul, who was divinely inspired when writing Ephesians, wrote this verse with the most potent grammar possible.

In that moment you believed in Jesus Christ, you were eternally saved, tied up forever in Christ. Many people start out believing, and then they reaffirm their belief to make sure, but their reaffirmation does not add anything to the eternal and irreversible fact that they were saved the first time they believed. Since we did nothing to earn salvation, there is nothing we can do to lose it.

The Justified by God Rational

The work of Christ on the cross removed the barrier between God and man and reconciled mankind to the Father. Fallen man now has the opportunity to have a relationship with God through non-meritorious faith in Jesus Christ. Whenever anyone chooses to believe in Jesus Christ for salvation, the justice of God the Father imputes His divine righteousness to that person and declares that believer as justified. Simultaneously, God the Father imputes His eternal life to the newly created human spirit of the believer. These two factors (God's righteousness and His eternal life) are two of forty things every Church Age believer receives at the moment of salvation.

All imputations by God are permanent imputations. In God's plan, there are two different types of imputations: real and judicial. There has never been an imputation by God (real or judicial) that was not permanent. An imputation is irrevocable. Therefore, any imputation of God is eternal.

A judicial imputation is credited where it does not rightfully belong—there is no affinity or home in the person to whom it was given. When there is no

affinity, the emphasis is on the source (the justice of God) rather than any connection to what is imputed and the person who receives it. Judicial imputations are as follows:

- 1. Mankind's sins to Christ.** On the cross, the justice of God the Father imputed all the sins of mankind to His beloved Son, Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:24). This was a judicial imputation because sin has no affinity with the impeccable humanity of Christ, i.e., it has no home in Him. To complete the judicial action, the Father's justice immediately judged every one of those sins in Christ. Our personal sins are never imputed to us. Rather, the perfect humanity of Christ was "pierced through for our transgressions" taking upon Himself the penalty that rightfully belonged to all men (Isaiah 53:5). This substitutionary work satisfied God's righteousness and justice and made possible our so great salvation (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 2:2).
- 2. Divine righteousness to the believer.** Because the imputation and judgment of sins satisfied

divine holiness, God is free to impute His perfect righteousness to the believer at the moment of faith in Christ (Genesis 15:6; Romans 3:22, 4:3–5). This is a judicial imputation because divine righteousness is credited where it does not rightfully belong; no affinity exists between the absolute righteousness of God and the total depravity of mankind. The judicial action is made complete when the justice of God recognizes His own righteousness in the believer and pronounces him justified, acceptable, and vindicated (Romans 3:24; Philippians 3:9b). By this imputation and justification, divine justice is free to sustain the believer with logistical grace and impute special blessings without compromising divine essence (Romans 5:1; Titus 3:7).

A real imputation credits to a person something that is antecedently (suggests a causal or logical relationship) his own. Because there is affinity (harmony or agreement) between what is received and the one who receives it, a real imputation goes to a home where it rightfully belongs. Real imputations are as follows:

- 1. Soul life to biological life.** At each individual's physical birth, God imputes soul life to the existing biological life of the fetus. The combination of soul life and biological life results in a physically alive human being, a person for whom God has a plan and purpose. Soul life is a real imputation because the soul finds its home in the genetically formed biological life.
- 2. Adam's original sin to the sin nature.** The second imputation occurs at the same moment soul life is imputed, with the result that every person is born physically alive but spiritually dead. This is a real imputation because there is an affinity between Adam's original sin and the corrupted nature that sin caused in him.
- 3. Eternal life to the believer.** God is eternal life and to live eternally with God, one must also possess His life. One salvation imputation, therefore, is the imputation of eternal life. God the Holy Spirit sets up the affinity for this real imputation when, in His ministry of regeneration, He creates in the believer a

human spirit. To this divinely prepared home, the justice of God imputes eternal life, assuring the believer of a never-ending relationship with Him. The believer's soul and spirit abide in Heaven forever because he shares God's own eternal life (1 John 5:11–12; John 36, 6:47, 20:31).

- 4. Blessings in time to the mature believer.** This imputation occurs whenever the justice of God pours special blessings to the righteousness of God in the spiritually mature believer. Affinity between divine blessings and divine righteousness makes this a real imputation (Ephesians 1:3, 3:20).

- 5. Blessings in eternity to the mature believer.** The special blessings God imputes on earth are parlayed into even greater blessings in Heaven. The home of this real imputation is the resurrection body, sinless and immortal. When Jesus Christ evaluates believers in Heaven for their execution of the spiritual life, only those who have received blessings as a mature believer in life will receive blessings in eternity

(2 Corinthians 5:10). God is glorified by what He gives in this final imputation: honors, decorations, and privileges that distinguish the winner believer throughout the eternal state (Philippians 4:1; 2 Timothy 2:12a, 4:8; James 1:2; Revelation 2:26–28, 3:5a).²²

The integrity of God is eternal and absolutely flawless; as a believer in Jesus Christ, you have His imputed righteousness. There is no sin you can commit to cancel what God did for you at salvation. Even if you renounce Him and reject Him, He does not cancel your salvation. We are saved based on His character, not ours. Never forget that all sin (even the ones you will commit in the future) have already been judicially imputed to Jesus Christ on the cross and judged.

The same eternal, absolute justice that imputed your personal sins to the humanity of Christ on the cross, and then judged those sins, cannot undo or reverse that imputation or judgment. Christ died once for

²² Descriptions of the judicial and real imputations are excerpts from Thieme's Bible Doctrine Dictionary, R. B. Thieme, Jr., pages 137–138 (R. B. Thieme, Jr. Bible Ministries, Houston, Texas).

all sins, that man might be made the righteousness of God in Him. To be “made the righteousness of God” is to have His imputed eternal righteousness. There is no more human sin to judge; all sin was judged. Consequently, there is no condemnation for sin when His righteousness is imputed to us. There is nothing more that can be added to the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. He accomplished all the work. When Jesus Christ had completed the work of salvation, He said, “*TETELESTAI* (It is finished),” which means finished in the past with the result that it stands finished forever. You could no more lose your salvation and undo what God has done than you could change a sovereign decision of God.

God’s judicial pronouncements are perfect and eternal. God never has to reconsider a judicial decision. Moreover, He is the highest authority in the universe, so you do not have to worry about a judicial decision from God being overturned or reversed. God is eternal righteousness, so His decision is perfect; God has never been wrong or made a mistake. Since His decisions are always right, be assured that His provision of eternal life

is not in error, or subject to review and correction. Therefore, your eternal life can never be withdrawn.

There are those who do not believe they are saved because they don't "feel" saved. This is pure fiction. It is like saying that your feelings are more important for salvation than Christ's work on the cross. There are also those that believe they must work for salvation or "be good." None of us can work hard enough or be good enough to have a relationship with God. Salvation has been finished at the cross. When we add something to His incredible sacrifice, we are blaspheming. Faith alone in Christ alone is the only issue.

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ through Whom also we have obtained access by means of faith into this grace in which we stand" (Romans 5:1-2). When this verse says, "We stand in grace," it is not talking about our human virtue or morality (no matter how great we may think they are). It is not talking about our self-righteousness (no matter how closely we follow the Mosaic Law or how legalistic we are). The verse is talking about

the righteousness of God. This perfect, eternal, divine righteousness is permanently imputed to us at the moment of salvation. So, as believers, we are declared righteous because of God, not how we feel or what we do.

The Family of God Rationale

At some point in time, we were all born, and we had a mother and a father. Regardless of whether you ever knew your mother and father, you still had biological parents. Whether you were born into a traditional home, were adopted, or grew up in an orphanage, everyone had parents and was affiliated with a special group of people you considered family.

At the moment of your salvation, you were born into the Royal Family of God. We have already discussed the fact that God the Holy Spirit placed you in union with Christ (top circle) at the moment you believed. As such, you are related to Christ in your new birth and part of His Royal Family. God did this through grace. To all in the Church Age who have believed in Jesus Christ as Savior (also known as being born again), God has made them part of

His royal family (Romans 1:12). There are many passages in the New Testament in which God refers to you, as a believer in Jesus Christ, as His child or part of His family (1 John 3:23; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Galatians 3:26).

You cannot be unborn. Once you are born into a family, you are part of that family forever. This is not only true in temporal life, but also in the spiritual life. “We are children of God through faith in Jesus Christ” (Galatians 3:26).

“Sonship is eternal. It is the result of a birth which secures the impartation of a new divine nature. It is impossible to remove from a child the nature of his human father. It is a deeper and more abiding reality to have partaken of the divine nature. The born-again one thus possesses ‘eternal life’ by a legitimate birth and can ‘never perish.’ Such terms are themselves final.”²³

The Apostle Paul uses Roman adoption as an illustration of God’s adoption of you as a believer in Jesus Christ into His royal family. But Roman

23 Chafer, Lewis Sperry. *God’s Marvelous Work of Grace – Salvation*. Sunday School Times Company, 1922, pp. 112.

adoption was very different from adoption today. It was not just adding someone to the family; Roman adoption represented something much more significant. Remember, the Bible must be interpreted in the time it was written. Briefly stated, a Roman citizen could adopt anyone as their son, whether or not that person was related by blood to the one doing the adoption. In fact, just because you were in the bloodline of a Roman citizen did not guarantee that you would be adopted. Adoption during the Roman Empire took place when the son was a young man (probably in his early teens). There was a ceremony and, as part of the ceremony, the young man being adopted would assume the name of the Roman citizen who adopted him. Then a signet ring bearing the crest of that family would be put on his finger (giving him the authority and power to conduct business in the family's name). Finally, the son would be dressed in a special toga (*Toga Virillis*) signifying his adoption into the family as a man, with the status of the family into which he was adopted. We, likewise, become sons and daughters of the Living God by a spiritual adoption performed by God. Our "toga" is invisible

for now; it is the imputed righteousness of God. As adoptees into the Royal Family of God, we share nine characteristics with Christ as part of the forty things we receive from God from the moment of salvation.²⁴

When did God the Father perform this adoption of you into His Royal Family? Was it when you believed in Christ? Was it when you decided to cut back on some sin you habitually committed? Was it when you started to go to church and learn

24 At salvation, God gives us nine things we share with Christ. They are:

Heirship (co-heirs bequeathed) Romans 8:17; Ephsians 1:14, 18; Colossians 3:24; Hebrews 9:15.

Eternal life (imputed) 1 John 1:5, 11–13.

Priesthood (appointed) 1 Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 1:6.

Righteousness of God (imputed) 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Election (elected for the purpose of glorifying Him) 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 1:6.

Destiny of Christ (decreed) Ephesians 1:5; 1 Peter 2:4. We are accepted in Christ forever. Ephesians 1:6

Royal Family of God [two royal commissions: ambassadorship (2 Corinthians 5:20) and priesthood (1 Peter 2:9)].

Sonship (adopted) John 1:12; Romans 8:16; 2 Corinthians 6:18; 1 John 3:2.

Sanctification (positional in life and ultimate in eternity) Romans 12 (baptized, promised/assured); 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Corinthians 1:30, 6:11 (we are sanctified in Christ).

the Word of God? NO! God adopted you into His Royal Family in eternity past before you ever lived.²⁵ The omniscience of God knew you would use your free will to believe in His Son for salvation in eternity past before the universe was created and you existed. He also knew every sin that you would commit before and after you believed in Jesus Christ. Yet, in eternity past, He adopted you into His family. “Even as He has chosen us (all believers in the Church Age are considered Royal Family of God), for Himself in Him, and He did this before the beginning of the world that we should be saints (technical word for believers in the Royal Family of God) and blameless before Him in love having predestined us for the purpose of adoption as adult sons for Himself” (Ephesians 1:4–5).

25 Known as predestination, God did not negate free will or force anyone into a course of action. Rather, He only decreed and provisioned what He knew, in His omniscience, would actually happen. He predestined believers based on His eternal knowledge that they would, by their own free will, accept Jesus Christ as Savior. Definition from an excerpt from Thieme’s Bible Doctrine Dictionary, R. B. Thieme, Jr., pages 203–204. (R. B. Thieme, Jr. Bible Ministries, Houston, Texas).

Because of the omniscience of God, you were predestined for adoption into the Royal Family of God. This is part of God's plan for anyone who believed in His Son in the Church Age. In time, God the Holy Spirit performed the ceremony by placing you into union with Christ. He did this despite knowing what sins you would commit before and after your salvation. In other words, neither your sins, your failures, nor even your rejection of God's plan as a believer changed God's decision to adopt you into His family in eternity past. At the moment you believed in Jesus Christ, you were adopted. You can never be unborn or cast out of His family (Ephesians 1:5).

As members of God's Royal Family, and as a result of being in union with Christ (we are brethren), God has said you are a "co-heir" with Christ (Romans 1:19). Heirship requires a testamentary instrument such as a will. Heirship also indicates an inheritance. There are two parts of an inheritance: the benefactor (the one who gives) and the beneficiary (the one who receives). The benefactor for salvation and entrance into the Royal Family of God, is God the Father. Anyone named in that

testamentary instrument is considered an heir and beneficiary of that instrument. He has already decreed the inheritance of Christ which includes you as a believer.

Once the condition of the inheritance has been fulfilled, the right to that inheritance is vested (bestowed) in the beneficiaries named in the testamentary instrument. One cannot be divested (denied) once one is vested. The testamentary instrument was created in eternity past before you even existed. You, as a believer in Jesus Christ, were named as a co-heir in Christ. Christ's strategic victory at the cross fulfilled the condition and vested all that the Father had to His only Son. Consequently, as an adopted son into the Royal Family of God, you became a co-heir with Christ. You cannot lose your inheritance, because it is not kept by you; it exists in heaven and will be bestowed to you after you have received your resurrection body at the Rapture of the Church. "We have an inheritance which is incorruptible and undefiled, which fades not away, reserved in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time" (1 Peter 1:5).

Incidentally, the more spiritually mature you are in life, the greater your blessings are in Heaven. As you grow spiritually, you glorify the Lord, and He is glorified when He can pour out blessings to you, whether in life or eternity. He wants to pour out those blessings, but you must have capacity by way of maturing spiritually.

The Hand of God Rationale

Do you think yourself strong enough to escape from the omnipotent hand of God? You are not only in union with Christ (i.e., “the hands of the God Man”), but you are also in the hands of God the Father. “My Father which gave them to me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand” (John 10:29). So, an outcome to being in Christ (the top circle) is that you are one with the Father, just as Christ and the Father are one. As a believer in Jesus Christ, you belong to the Father (John 17:9–10, 17:21–23).

There is no human being, creature, or force stronger than God. For anyone to think they could undo what God, in His sovereignty and omnipotence has graciously done, is the epitome of arrogance.

No power can pluck the believer from God's omnipotent hand.

The Possession of God Rationale

At the moment of salvation, you were placed into union with Christ through the Baptism of God the Holy Spirit. “Stop grieving the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you are sealed until the day of redemption” (Ephesians 4:30). You are “sealed” by God the Holy Spirit. Hence, you are guaranteed eternal security.

“Paul and Timothy, the slaves of Jesus Christ who are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons” (Philippians 1:1). Every Church Age believer makes up the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ has many parts; each part is as important to Christ as the head, and each has its own function. In fact, that body does not function perfectly if a part of the body is removed. If you have a fully functional and healthy body, what part of your body are you willing to remove? No person who has a healthy body, that is also mentally sound, suddenly decides to remove a portion of his body. Anyone in Christ, although he may sin or fail, remains positionally in

the Body of Christ. You cannot undo what God has wrought.

Even Christ, who is the “Head” of the Church, cannot remove you once God the Holy Spirit places you in union with Christ. “The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I don’t need you!’ And the head cannot say to the foot, ‘I do not need you!’” (1 Corinthians 12:21). You will never hear these words from the Lord Jesus Christ. Nor can you as a hand, or a foot, or a finger, or any other part of the body say to God, you no longer desire to be a part of the Body of Christ. You can lose fellowship with God through sin (so you won’t function as you should), but you never stop being a part of the Body of Christ.

The Faithfulness of God Rationale

In the Church Age, we have no prophets, visions, or miraculous gifts, as there were in other dispensations. But we do have the completed Canon of Scripture, The Bible. This is the Word of God, and the more we learn about its contents, the more spiritually mature we become. As we mature, we develop a stronger respect, faith, and love for our Lord. This includes the unquestionable trust that

God has graciously provided our salvation, eternal life, and eternal security.

Although God commands us to learn the Word of God, He has given us volition (free will). We can choose to learn about Him after salvation, as He mandates us to do, or we can choose not to learn about the Word of God. The choice is ours. When we do learn about Him on a consistent basis, we fulfill His plan for us. We also learn the answer to the question of what we are to do after we believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior. In other words, “After salvation, what?”

God graciously provides us with the resources to learn and grow in His Word. An essential key resource is the filling of God the Holy Spirit. This is also referred to as being in fellowship with the Holy Spirit. When we sin, we lose the filling of the Holy Spirit. Without being in fellowship, we cannot grow spiritually.

God wants us to be faithful, not flawless.²⁶ God desires us to be faithful, but as fallen human beings

26 Hughes, Rick. *Bible Promises and Principles*. Rick Hughes Evangelistic Ministries, p. 45.

we fail. In grace, God has provided the believer with everything he needs to be faithful in living the Christian way of life. For example, when we sin, He has provided a simple means for us to get back into fellowship. “For anytime we name or acknowledge our sin to God, “HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). We call this confession of our sins directly to God the Father “rebound.”²⁷ After we have rebounded, we have regained our fellowship with the Holy Spirit. We are now ready to learn the Word of God from a prepared and trained pastor-teacher, or study the Word of God through books and other media from organizations as those referenced in the back of this book.

But what about the believer who is unfaithful and cares nothing about being in fellowship with the Holy Spirit and learning God’s Word? God

²⁷ Rebound is confession of known sins to God the Father. This is a grace procedure by which carnal believers are forgiven of post-salvation personal sins, restored to fellowship with God, and able to resume the spiritual life. Definition is an excerpt from Thieme’s Bible Doctrine Dictionary, R. B. Thieme, Jr., page 214. (R. B. Thieme, Jr. Bible Ministries, Houston, Texas).

cannot deny salvation to the unfaithful believer, the reversionistic believer, or the believer who rejects God's plan; to do so, God would have to deny His own essence. God's faithfulness remains consistent, no matter what "route" a believer takes. "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself" (2 Timothy 2:13).

If the believer chooses to live without confessing sin and without growing in His Word, he will not lose his salvation. He will maintain His position in Christ forever. This choice, however, leads to a life filled with emptiness, unhappiness, and discipline; and, upon death, although the believer will be in Heaven (and happy to be there), his eternal rewards will never be claimed.

As we metabolize (accept as truth) the Word of God and mature spiritually, we learn more and more about the mind of Christ. As we learn the mind of Christ, our assurance in our exceedingly wonderful eternal future is solidified.

The Attributes of God Rationale

All the attributes of God are involved in your salvation and resultant eternal security. We have

mentioned all of them in our study. However, I would like to re-visit God's attributes of love and veracity from a logical point of view.

Love

God is love. God's love is eternal, unchangeable, and infinite. You will recall from a previous discussion that one of the attributes involved with your eternal security is God's love for you as a believer in Jesus Christ. Remember that God provided your salvation when you were a spiritually dead sinner. "God demonstrated His love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died as a substitute for us" (Romans 5:8).

It was God's eternal and unfailing love that sent His Son to become sin for us on the cross, so that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. Jesus Christ, in His Love for the Father and His love for us, voluntarily changed places with us. Instead of us being judged for our own sins (since we are fallen and sinful, we are not qualified to pay our debt), He was judged as our substitute, thus reconciling us to God.

Knowing what you do about God's love, would it make any logical sense for a God Who has loved you so much that He sent His uniquely born Son to die in your place, to remove the benefits of that sacrifice? Would it be a sound conclusion that you could do something so heinous that God would withdraw His eternal life from you? Is that unfailing love? No! It is not unfailing, infinite, and perfect love. To think that way removes the absolute integrity from God's infinite love, as well as cheapens His love for His Son and His love for you to the level of an adolescent crush. Such a thought is blasphemous.

Would it not be a contradiction of God's love to provide salvation for you, and then rescind that salvation for any reason? Is that consistent with unfailing eternal, immutable love? Stop thinking of God's love in terms of human love, which is frequently fickle and based on emotion. Human love comes and goes depending on whether the object of our love fulfills our needs and expectations. God's love cannot be compared to human love. Christ points this out very succinctly in Matthew 7:11 which says, "If you who are evil know how to give good things to your children (who you claim to

love), how much more do you think your Heavenly Father knows how to give good things to those who ask Him.” You who are evil and yet provide and protect your children, how much more does your Father (whose goodness and love is eternal, immutable, and infinite) know how to secure and safeguard His imputed eternal life, especially when you, as a believer, have been placed in union with His Son, Who now sits at the right hand of God the Father?

Motivated from His love for man and consistent with His essence, God provided the only way of salvation for man, which is Jesus Christ. “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). “Anyone who comes, I will no way cast out” (John 6:37).

God’s love for you is infinite and eternal, and the same love that provided you with salvation is the same eternal, infinite love that will never cast you out and never allow anything to remove you from the security of His almighty hands.

Veracity

Veracity means God is absolute truth. Truth is never diminished or compromised in God, for He is the Origin of truth. His “word is truth” (John 17:17b) and, therefore, the only Source of absolute truth for mankind. So, if God is truth, He cannot lie. If He lied to us, He would not be perfect, and He would not be God. In the writings of the Old and New Testaments, we are promised salvation and eternal life by way of faith in Jesus Christ. Although those in the Old Testament knew Him as Messiah, not as Jesus Christ, He is the same Savior of all mankind. Since the time of Adam, He has been the only Way of salvation.

It took approximately 1500 years and forty authors to write the sixty-six books of the Bible. There are no contradictions, and all Scripture consistently points to one Savior. If the Bible and the promises contained in it were not true, it would be the most intricately planned, superbly coordinated, and brilliantly executed deception in human history. But one must ask, “What would be the motive to spend so much fortune, effort, time, and energy, across multiple generations, on such an elaborate,

complex, and fantastic hoax as this? Why hasn't anyone exposed the hoax and pointed out the culprits?" The answer is simple. It is because it is not a hoax or deception. There is no doubt that God is Truth, He always tells the truth, He is absolutely trustworthy, and He always keeps His promises, which include the promises of eternal life for the believer.

Conclusion

Each of the rationales we discussed is an iron-clad confirmation that guarantees the eternal security of the believer in Jesus Christ. The gift of eternal security is part of God's grace, to us, at salvation (Ephesians 2:8). It is something the believer possesses forever regardless of his experiential status in life.

God cannot be compromised by the failure of the believer and his lack of integrity. Remember, every believer is permanently indwelt by God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit from the moment of salvation. "If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself" (2 Timothy 2:13).

Very few new believers, as well as those believers without the Word of God in their souls, have genuine confidence in God. Confidence in God and in His Plan is acquired by believers who fulfill the principle

of post-salvation epistemological rehabilitation.²⁸ Until the word of God is perceived, metabolized, applied, and until they become cognitive of the pertinent doctrines of the Church Age, believers will not have an unshakeable confidence in God. It will be emotional and fleeting. A human being's lack of confidence in God does not change His way of thinking, or the work that was done on the cross. You have eternal security whether you are confident about it or not. Remember, it's not about you; it is about the work of Jesus Christ, The Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world.

“These doctrines are a source of comfort when you have lost a loved one. They are the source of blessing as you face the adversities of life and realize that there's something far beyond this life, and that God has given you an eternal state in a permanent body that will never experience pain or deterioration in any possible way.”²⁹

28 Post-salvation epistemological rehabilitation is the development of a new way of thinking, a viewpoint based on God's Word, for life after salvation. Thieme's Bible Doctrine Dictionary, R. B. Thieme, Jr., Page 201 (R. B. Thieme, Jr. Bible Ministries, Houston, Texas).

29 Griffin, Joe. *2023 Shreveport Bible Conference, The Eschatological Dispensations*. Joe Griffin Media Ministries,

Logic Reassures Us of Our Eternal Security

“He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him freely give us all things” (Romans 8:32).

Fallen, totally depraved, and spiritually dead mankind owed God a debt man had no ability to pay. Total outstanding public and private debt across all sectors of the United States at the time of this writing is approaching 100 trillion dollars. Total worldwide debt is now in quadrillions. And yet this debt, although almost incomprehensible, is still finite and calculable. In comparison, it is infinitely less than the debt we owed God as a result of our sin. How does sinful man pay a debt of absolute eternal righteousness to an infinite, eternal, and absolute righteous God when mankind lacks the capacity and the “currency” to pay that debt? Even if you could live long enough and work twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week for your entire life, you could never earn enough to pay your debt to God. “For man it is impossible but for God all things are possible” (Mark 10:27). God provided the payment for that debt through a gift to mankind

— His uniquely born Son. “For God loved the world so much that He gave His uniquely born Son that whosoever, believes in Him should never perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). This is a function of God’s grace. We can never earn or deserve grace. Man’s debt to God has been paid, and anyone who believes in Jesus Christ walks out from the slave market of sin into spiritual freedom. Jesus Christ provided the payment (His uniquely born Son) to pay a debt on your behalf (not just yours but for the entire human race). But God’s grace does not stop there. God’s grace continues to provide for those who believe in His Son.³⁰

Now, if God has already accomplished the greater (payment of mankind’s debt to the justice and righteousness of God), does it not make perfectly logical sense that God can accomplish the lesser (providing believers with eternal security)? Of course!

If a man can lift 500 pounds over his head, is it not logical that he could lift five pounds over his

30 Watson, Gary. *Grace Throughout Life*. Philippi Freedom Ministry, 2023.

head? If a man had the means to pay off a debt of one million dollars, does it not make perfectly good sense he could afford to purchase a piece of gum?

Dating back to the fifth century, this type of Greek logic is identified as the *A Fortiori* syllogism.³¹ *A FORTIORI* is a Latin phrase meaning “WITH STRONGER REASON.” *A* means “with” plus the ablative of *FORTE* which means “stronger.” There are many examples of this type of logical argument in the New Testament. Even Christ Himself used this type of persuasive argument when He was teaching those who believed in Him that they did not have to worry about food, or clothing, or shelter. For if God could provide for sparrows, who have little value to anyone and who do not sow, God is certainly able to provide for those whom He loves (the believer) (Matthew 10:29–31).

Therefore, if God has already accomplished the most difficult thing (providing salvation to anyone

31 A syllogism is an instance of a form of reasoning in which a conclusion is drawn from two given or assumed propositions, each of which shares a term with the conclusion. (Excerpt from the New Oxford American Dictionary) Example: If a man can do 50 pushups, he can do 10 pushups.

who believes in His Son), it follows logically that He can do the less difficult thing in providing eternal security. If the believer is justified by the Blood of Christ (harder thing), it follows *A FORTIORI* (with stronger reason), that the believer will be delivered from the last judgment (easier thing). “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by means of the death of His Son, much more, we shall be delivered as sons by His life, or ‘in His life’” (Romans 5:10).

“Therefore, face to face with these things, to what conclusion are we forced? If God is for us, who is against us? The God Who did not even spare His own Son, but on behalf of all of us, He delivered Him (God the Son) over to judgment. How shall He not also with Him, in grace give to us (the spiritually mature believer) all things?” (Romans 8:31–32).

***Nature Reassures Us
of Our Eternal Security***

Jesus Christ is the Creator. He created, and now sustains, the universe. He knows all about the smallest microscopic particles and the colossal stars; He knows where they are at any given time.

He established the natural and scientific laws which govern the universe. His power is incomprehensible.

“Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing” (Isaiah 40:26). “He determines the numbered stars and calls them each by name” (Psalm 147:4). Who has not marveled at the night sky? These verses not only confirm that God created all the stars, but He also named them. “David Kornreich is an assistant professor at Ithaca College in New York State. He was the founder of the ‘Ask An Astronomer’ service at Cornell University. Kornreich used a very rough estimate of 10 trillion galaxies in the universe. Multiplying that by the Milky Way’s estimated 100 billion stars results in a large number indeed: 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars, or a “1” with 24 zeros after it (1 septillion in the American numbering system; 1 quadrillion in the European system). Kornreich emphasized that number is likely a gross underestimation, as more detailed looks at the

universe will show even more galaxies.”³² All of these celestial bodies are moving through space at great speed, yet they are orderly and do not collide with each other; so, we must recognize that they are being controlled and sustained by our Lord Jesus Christ.

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well” (Psalm 139:14). One of many miraculous aspects of the human body is the number and type of cells that make up the body. “Human beings are complex multicellular organisms made up of trillions of cells. Scientists estimate that the adult human body contains around 37 trillion human cells and 200 different cell types.”³³ The incredible features of the human body did not happen by accident, and He is intimately familiar with His creation. God knows every detail about you and each and every cell in your body. He knows the mechanisms,

32 Space.com, *How many stars are in the universe?* by Elizabeth Howell and Ailsa Harvey, published February 11, 2022, [How many stars are in the universe?](#)

33 National Library of Medicine, National Center for Biotechnology Information, August 1, 2018, [Toward mapping the human body at a cellular resolution – PMC \(nih.gov\)](#).

within the cells that supply nourishment, make repairs, remove waste, facilitate reproduction, and much more. And He knows this about each human being!

So, does your faith seem to come and go? Does it seem like God has forgotten you or He does not care about you? When you have doubts, remember your Creator!

Just like all passages in the Bible, those that reference nature were written by divinely inspired authors of Scripture. They are not only written so you can admire God's handiwork of creation, but also to give you assurance that God will not forget you or lose track of you. He has never lost track of any human being, animal, celestial body, or even a single atom. He knows exactly when you became a believer; He knows your circumstances, whether you are far below the ocean in a submarine, deep in a dark jungle, in a lonely outpost, or in a prison cell. You can be confident that, as a believer, He will bring your soul and spirit home to Heaven at the perfect time. He will not forget you. You are eternally secure in His omnipotent hands.

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:29–31).

Eternal Life Passages

There are many passages, in the divinely inspired Word of God which guarantee that you, as a believer in Jesus Christ, have been imputed with eternal life and your future in Heaven is secure.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His uniquely born (corrected translation) Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

“I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies” (John 11:25).

“Trust in the Lord forever, for in God we have an everlasting rock” (Isaiah 26:4).

“The Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise

first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we always be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17).

“He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them, you may become partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:4).

“I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38–39).

“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (God the Holy Spirit), that He may be with you forever...He abides with you and will be in you” (John 14:16–17).

“I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand” (John 10:28).

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord”
(Revelation 14:13).

“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was,
and the spirit shall return unto God, who gave it”
(Ecclesiastes 12:7).

“According to my earnest expectation and absolute
confidence that I shall not be put to shame in
anything but that with all boldness, Christ shall even
now, as always, be exalted in my body whether by
life or by death” (Philippians 1:20).

“For the wages of sin is death (spiritual death), but
the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our
Lord” (Romans 6:23).

“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but
he who does not, shall not see life, but the wrath of
God abides on him” (John 3:36).

“He who hears My Word, and believes Him who sent
Me, has eternal life, and not come into judgment,
but has passed out of death into life” (John 5:24).

“God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and
there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor

crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

“I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:2).

“To live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21).

“We know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Corinthians 5:1).

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works, so that no one should boast” (Ephesians 2:8–9).

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled

and will not fade away, reserved in Heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:3–5).

“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for all of us, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things” (Romans 8:28).

“There is no judgment, therefore, to those that are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).

“These have been written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you might have eternal life through His name” (John 20:31).

“This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life” (1 John 2:25).

Are you still thinking that you, as a believer in Jesus Christ, can lose your salvation? Well, “Stop thinking of self in terms of arrogance (arrogance destroys any possibility of happiness) beyond the point you ought to think, but think in terms of sanity, for the purpose of being rational without

illusion. For God has assigned to each one of us a standard of thinking from doctrine” (Romans 12:3). In short, stop thinking in terms of human viewpoint, in terms of self, and start thinking in terms of divine truth (the Word of God), and enjoy the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. As a permanent child of God, it is what He intended you to have while you advance to the high ground of spiritual maturity in the Christian life.

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have eternal life. Death has lost its sting. The more you learn the Word of God, the more you will trust, respect, and love the Lord. Have confidence in your salvation and eternal security by growing and maturing spiritually. As doctrine accumulates in your soul, you will enjoy your time on Earth, because your life will have purpose and definition, no matter what your circumstances are. You will no longer fear death, and you will actually look forward to that perfect moment when God takes you home to be with Him forever.

Appendix A

The Ten Problem-Solving Devices

You will not find the expression “ten problem-solving devices” in the Bible. This term, as well as the terms used to identify each of the ten problem-solving devices, are used to help us understand and use the guidance that God has graciously given us to solve problems, whether in adversity or prosperity. There is a solution to every problem in life. The ten problem-solving devices were taught many years ago by Pastor R. B. Thieme, Jr. They help us to conquer anxiety, fear, guilt, and stress in life.

The following paragraphs provide a brief explanation of each problem-solving device. A more in-depth description can be found in “Thieme’s Bible Doctrine Dictionary” by R. B. Thieme, Jr. and “A Crash Course in Christianity” by Rick Hughes.

#1 – Rebound

Confession, or acknowledgement, of known personal sins directly to God the Father. It is a grace procedure by which the sinful believer is restored to fellowship with God. As a result of rebound, the believer is able to resume the spiritual life. Rebound is a private matter between the believer and God the Father. Confession of sins to another human being is not condoned.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (known, forgotten, and unknown sins)” (1 John 1:19).

#2 – Filling of the Holy Spirit

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is a mandate from God. It is accomplished by rebound, the first problem-solving device. The ministry of the Holy Spirit empowers the soul of the Church Age believer and enables him to execute the unique spiritual life. When filled with the Spirit, the believer is in fellowship with God and under the control, influence, and mentorship of the Holy Spirit. This is the status of “spirituality.” This status

is lost through personal sin but recovered through acknowledging transgressions to God the Father (rebound).

“Be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).

#3 – Faith-Rest Drill

The faith-rest drill allows the believer to rest in God’s promises while logically applying the Word of God to a troubling situation. The faith-rest drill has three steps.

1. Claim a promise – There are thousands of promises in the Bible. Some examples are “nothing is impossible with God” (Luke 1:37); “do not fear, for I am with you” (Isaiah 41:10a); “when I am afraid, I will put my trust in You” (Psalm 56:3).

2. Apply a doctrinal rationale (Biblical principle) – this is a logical justification for claiming a promise. For example, God has never lied, and He will never lie. In the Bible, He promises us eternal security, so the believer in Jesus Christ is confident he is saved.

3. Reach a conclusion – at this point, the believer rests firmly in a Biblical conclusion. For example, “If God is for us, who is against us?” (Romans 8:31). If the problem is totally beyond our control and we seem to be out of options, “we can standby and watch the deliverance of the Lord” (Exodus 14:13).

“No testing has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful and will not allow you to be tested beyond what you are able, but with the testing will provide the way of escape also that you will be able to endure it” (1 Corinthians 10:3).

4 – Grace Orientation

Grace is the policy of God to you during your life and into eternity. Grace is God doing the work based on Who and What He is. Grace is undeserved. It is compassion and mercy. Grace orientation is the mental attitude of the believer who recognizes that everything he is, and will ever be, depends solely on the power and plan of God. The believer recognizes salvation is by grace, and our life support such as food, water, shelter, clothing, is by grace. Dying grace is also provided to those believers who

advance in the plan of God and learn His Word. Finally, surpassing grace includes all the blessings earned in time that will be experienced in heaven. God expects you to live by grace and treat others with grace.

“Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be sober and fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:13).

#5 – Doctrinal Orientation

Doctrinal orientation is simply having God’s Word in your soul and thinking with divine viewpoint. Of course, to have this, you must continually learn the Word of God. As you learn, you grow spiritually; as you grow spiritually, you will be guided and encouraged by the truth of God’s Word.

“I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths. When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; and if you run, you will not stumble. Take hold of instruction; do not let go. Guard her, for she is your life” (Proverbs 4:11–13).

#6 – Personal Sense of Destiny

With a personal sense of destiny, the focus on Jesus Christ is greater than the focus on self. You leave your personal agenda behind and pay more attention to the plan of God for your life. Your life takes on greater meaning, no matter your present circumstances. Having a personal sense of destiny motivates you to get your priorities right and answers the question, “Why are we here?” With self-confidence from Biblical knowledge in the soul, the believer submits to God’s will and lives in the light of an eternally secure future.

“But according to His promise we are looking forward to new heavens and a new earth, in which perfect righteousness lives” (2 Peter 3:13).

“There are many plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that will prevail” (Proverbs 19:21),

#7 – Personal Love for God

We are commanded to love God. Personal love for God is respect and gratitude for God. Just as the only way to love someone is to know them, we can only truly love God if we know Him. The only way

we know God is through learning God's word. This is why Bible study, from a qualified pastor-teacher, is so important. Love for God motivates us to be obedient to God's plan.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37).

“Though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory” (1 Peter 1:8).

#8 – Impersonal Love for All Mankind

Impersonal love for all mankind is an unconditional, relaxed attitude to the entire human race. It is dependent on the virtue of the believer towards others. This virtue solves people problems. It is impossible for anyone to personally love everyone, but we are commanded to show impersonal love to all.

“If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God

whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also (1 John 4:20–21).

#9 – Sharing the Happiness of God

Sharing the happiness of God is the attitude of contentment, tranquility, optimism, reassurance, and joy that the believer, knowledgeable of the Word of God, maintains in every circumstance, whether adverse or prosperous. Do you know that when Jesus Christ was in excruciating pain on the cross, He was content and happy? He did not depend on circumstances, but on the realization that He was fulfilling God’s plan. True happiness comes from within. Those that depend on pleasant circumstances for happiness will always be disappointed. Those that depend on the Word of God in their souls will always be content. Paul, who during his ministry was beaten, cursed at, put in prison, and finally beheaded, wrote the following verse in Philippians:

“I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along in humble means and I know how to live in

prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him Who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:11–13).

#10 – Occupation with Christ

Occupation with Christ is maximum personal love, devotion, and respect for our Savior, Jesus Christ. It is also an intense concentration on Him above all else. At this point in spiritual growth and knowledge of God’s Word, divine viewpoint has replaced human viewpoint. Christ is your role model; you get encouragement from Him, not people or circumstances. Furthermore, you have the “mind of Christ” and demonstrate it in the way you think, act, and represent Him to others.

“It is no longer I, but Christ in me” (Galatians 2:20).

“The peace of God which surpasses all comprehension will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7).

The ten problem-solving devices are wonderful tools graciously given to believers. But, like any

tool, we must learn how to use them. Keep taking in the Word of God to sharpen your skills and to fulfill God's plan for your life.

Notes

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Do you sometimes have doubts you are going to Heaven, even as a well-versed believer in Jesus Christ? Do you occasionally wake up in a cold sweat wondering if you are really saved? Have you committed a sin you are so ashamed of that you think you have lost your salvation? *Eternal Security* illuminates Biblical promises and explains rationales to diminish anxiety and doubt, thereby strengthening your faith regarding your magnificent eternal destiny. As human beings, we are immortal. Yes, we die physically, but death is merely a separation of the material body from the immaterial soul. So, where do we reside after we die? That depends on whether you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. If you have accepted Him, you are, without a doubt, eternally secure; you will spend eternity in this indescribably wonderful place we call Heaven. Once you believe in Jesus Christ with just a moment of faith, you are forever in His almighty hands, and you will “never perish.” Your destiny is sealed because of the grace of God and our Savior’s victory on the cross.



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